

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**March 23, 2006**

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A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 4:05 p.m.

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**In Attendance**

J. DiPrete, A. Beretta, C. Callahan, B. Camara, K. Forbes, P. Guida, and G. Grove.

**Public Remarks**

There were no public remarks.

**Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman DiPrete reported that he and Regent Guida had attended the NASBE Legislative Conference on March 16 & 17. Mr. Guida had the opportunity to meet with Representative Kennedy and Chairman DiPrete met with Senators Chafee and Reed. Mr. DiPrete told the members of the board that he had lobbied strongly for education reform at the national level and asked for NASBE support. NASBE will be visiting to talk about Rhode Island reform efforts in the near future.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Meeting Minutes of February 23 and March 14, 2006.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

**Approval of Members to the Central Falls Board of Trustees.**

Chairman of the State and Charter Schools Committee Gary Grove gave the board a brief overview of the qualification of both candidates – Angelo Garcia and Jhomphy Ventura and read the motion to recommend.

The Chairman of the Central Falls' Board of Trustees, Bob Canavan was invited to the table to support both candidates.

**MOVED AND SECONDED:** That, The Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education Approve the Appointments of Angelo Garcia and Jhomphy R. Ventura as members of the Central Falls Board of Trustees as Recommended by the State and Charter Schools Committee.

**VOTE:** Approved Unanimously.

### Discussion of Statewide Efficiencies

Regent Camara introduced Brian Stern, the Executive Director of the Department of Administration along with Lorraine Hynes and Steven Johnson. Mr. Stern explained to the Regents that the Department of Administration has been working with many of the state agencies in an effort to consolidate state purchases. He reported that so far this year they have been able to save \$160,000 by consolidating such items and services as janitorial supplies, copy machines; delivery services; defibrillator devices and the training to use them; Cars/police cars, state cars, schools busses etc., state health care contract (saved over \$25M). However, Mr. Stern explained that one of the major issues surrounding consolidating state purchases and services is in getting the information out. The Department of Administration has put forth a recommendation to the State Purchasing Commission to work out a twelve-month strategic plan that would include the cities and towns. The agency has been working with both Staples and Office Max to obtain the best prices on office equipment and supplies and are now ready to offer the same prices to the cities and towns. They are also willing to offer the contract prices to individual teachers for their classroom purchases.

The Regents discussed how supplies could be distributed and urged Mr. Stern to work with local district business officers. Regent Grove suggested the establishment of a central distribution point and also suggested that computer equipment and fuel oil be purchased in the same manner.

Commissioner McWalters suggested to the Board that a state aid bonus could “coop” school districts to join in.

The Regents discussed various ways of getting the districts/cities and towns to the table. Tim Duffy, the Executive Director of the School Committee Association told the members of the board that the association has been working with their membership and already some districts are purchasing fuel oil together and they are also working with districts to look at their health care provider. The retirement health care contracts are a problem. Some contracts say that retirees will be covered for life. The group emphasized that there “...is still a lot of work to do...” but they are working with the Governor’s Office to develop some ideas for additional savings. They also asked that the Regents appoint a member of the board to work with them. Chairman DiPrete asked that Regent Bob Camara be the Regent’s point person.

### Presentation on Release of NECAP Scores

RIDE Director of Office of Assessment and Accountability, Mary Ann Snider, reported that the NECAP scores were released today. She reviewed the data highlighting the mathematics and writing sections. She also compared the

results of the '05 NECAP scores to the '04 NSRE and the '05 NAEP. She reviewed the data, including that 72,000 Rhode Island students were tested; gave an overview of the state summary by grade level 3-8 of every school in the state and desegregated the data by gender.

Ms. Snider expressed her concern about the achievement levels of Rhode Island's students with IEPs and explained the difference in the results of the "three Rhode Island's". The group then talked about how Rhode Island compared to New Hampshire and Vermont – their scores are higher than ours, but when comparing like populations of students, we look more like them.

### Budget Update

RIDE Director of Finance, Carolyn Dias gave the board a brief update on the budget.

### Legislative Update

RIDE staff member, Andy Andrade reported that he in is close communication with the various education associations, including the superintendents, school committees, and principals. He then distributed an updated legislative report and spoke briefly on key legislation.

Chairman DiPrete told board members that he will be hosting a legislative information session within the next few weeks.

### Regents Committee Reports

**School Administrator and Teacher Quality & Support Committee** – Patrick Guida reported that they had met and discussed AYP, School Committee Governance and the PS&I districts.

**CASP** – Colleen Callahan reported that her committee hadn't met this month, but that a meeting would be scheduled for next month to do a final review of the High School and Middle School Regs.

### Commissioner's Report

Commissioner McWalters told the board that there is a PK-16 council meeting scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>; and that a schedule to roll out the state diploma system would go out this week.

### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

### Adjourn

With unanimous consent the meeting adjourned immediately at 5:45 p.m.